Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC. VS. FR

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM

REF: (A) STATE 21752, (B) PARIS 2845

SUMMARY: FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICERS REVIEW SITUATION OF FRENCH FLIGHT FROM SAIGON. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELLOR BROCHAND AND CONSULAR CHIEF DAVID FEBRUARY 5 TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF A. WITH RESPECT TO THE THREE AMERICANS ON WHOM FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON WISHES TO BILL THE DEPARTMENT. PARIS APPA-RENTLY SENT BILL FOR DAWSON TRAVEL ERRONEOUSLY TO WASHINGTON RATHER THAN BANGKOK. AND FRENCH EMBASSY HERE WILL ASK PARIS TO TRANSFER IT. DAWSON IS MORE THAN WILLING TO SETTLE WITH THE FRENCH IN BANGKOK. PASTOR ALEXANDER KOWLES' LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IS IN CARE OF MRS. AGNES A. SCHAEFFER, 3915 NORTH 54TH WAY, PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85018; WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY. FRENCH EMBOFFS KNEW NOTHING ABOUT BILL FOR CHING, NOTING THAT Y.L. CHING VISITED THEIR CONSULATE IN SAIGON DECEMBER 31 AND HAS NOT BEEN LISTED ON ANY MANIFESTS SINCE THEN. THEY THOUGHT IT STRANGE THAT A BILL WOULD BE PRESENTED FOR HIS TRAVEL AT THIS TIME AND AGREED TO CONTINUE TO NOTIFY US HERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABOUT ANY AMCITS IN SAIGON WHO, FRENCH CONSULATE ADVISES, ARE

UNABLE TO PAY THEIR \$91 TRANSPORTATION BILL.

- 3. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE FRENCH BILLING PROCEDURE FOR THOSE PERSONS WHO DID NOT PAY FOR THEIR TICKETS IN SAIGON IS NOT VERY EFFICIENT. IT IS HANDLED IN PARIS ON BASIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED FROM SAIGON. FRENCH EMBASSY BANGKOK RECEIVED JUST THIS WEEK FROM PARIS THE FIRST BILL IT HAS BEEN ASKED TO COLLECT, ON A PERSON WHO DEPARTED SAIGON LAST AUGUST.K
- 4. AMERICANS WHO HAVE DEPARTED SAIGON ON FRENCH FLIGHTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: FATHER J. BERARD ARAM, MITCHELL KISTNERT, AND JOSEPH D. HUGHES (AUGUST 12); MRS. MARIE GREGORY, PHILIPPE GREGORY, AND ADRE JEAN LUSK (AUGUST 22); ALAN DAWSON (SEPTEMBER 3); PASTOR ALEXANDER KOWLES, DR. THOMAS KOSKINS, AND MS. JULIE FORSYTHE (OCTOBER 7); FATHER JOHN TABOR (OCTOBER 8): AND LARRY FEIGON (DECEMBER 2).
- 5. FROM BEGINNING OF FRENCH FLIGHTS ON AUGUST 12 UNTIL JANUARY 31, FRENCH TRANSPORTED TOTAL OF 5595 PERSONS ON 102 FLIGHTS. PERHAPS ONE-HALF OF THE PASSENGERS WERE NON-FRENCH. THERE ARE IN PRINCIPLE FIVE FLIGHTS PER WEEK, ALTHOUGH THIS TOTAL OFTEN VARIS. THE PASSENGER AVERAGE DURING OPERATIONS IN 1975 WAS 54 PERSONS PER FLIGHT, WHEREAS DURING THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS OF JANUARY IT WAS 63, 42, 48, AND 84 PER FLIGHT. PER RESPECTIVE WEEKS.
- 6. PER REF B, BROCHAND ANTICIPATES NO PROBLEMS IN WHAT SHOUDL BE AN ALMOST AUTOMATIC RENEWAL FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE PRG FOR FIVE FLIGHTS A WEEK THROUGH THE END OF APRIL.
- 7. FRENCH EMBOFFS CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO WORD FROM SAIGON AS TO WHEN THE AUTHORITIES WILL PERMIT ANY DEPARTURES OF AMCITS.
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